

Preliminary Amendment  
SN 09/930,398  
April 12, 2006  
Page 4

**Comments**

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6, and 11 have been amended.

The examiner rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by US Patent 5,446,953 to LeFeber. This rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 as amended recites that the band is composed of no more than two layers of fabric along the length. Support for this recitation is found in the specification at p. 4, lines 18-20 and in the drawings at Fig. 4, elements 13, 16a, 16b. Claims 6 and 11 are similarly amended.

The LeFeber patent does not disclose this limitation and, in fact, teaches away from a band having only two layers of fabric. The point of invention of the LeFeber patent is to join three layers of elastic material and does not disclose the present invention of joining only two layers. See, LeFeber '953 patent at col. 1/43-44, 1/50-54, 2/40-42, 2/49-50, 4/44-45, 5/54-56. Accordingly, LeFeber does not disclose the subject matter of the claims of the present invention. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

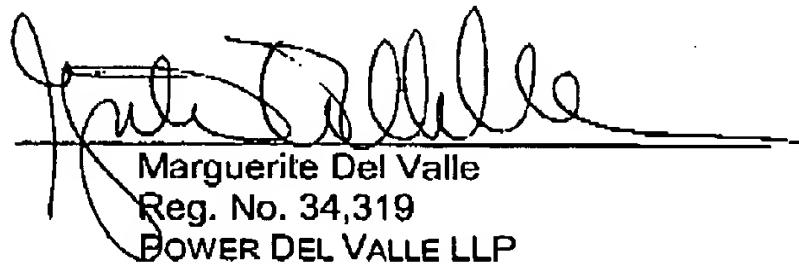
Preliminary Amendment  
SN 09/930,398  
April 12, 2006  
Page 5

**Conclusion**

The applicants submit that the claims as amended present patentable subject matter.

Allowance is respectfully requested.

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